

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COTONO 00586 251444 Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /147 W  
----- 028685

R 251410 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5077

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 0586

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, DM, NI, CEAO

SUBJ: DAHOMEAN CHIEF OF STATE VISITS NIGERIA

1. KEY IMPORTANCE MRGD ATTACHES TO ITS RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA WAS AGAIN EMPHASIZED WHEN PRESIDENT KEREKOU PAID HIS FIRST VISIT OUTSIDE DAHOMEY SINCE ASSUMING POWER TO LAGOS ON APRIL 21. THIS FOLLOWED ON HEELS OF DAHOMEY'S REFUSAL TO JOIN CEAO ON GROUNDS ITS GIANT ANGLOPHONE NEIGHBOR NOT INCLUDED ( COTONOU 0559). DOUBT TIMING LAGOS VISIT, SO SOON AFTER ABIDJAN MEETING, WAS COINCIDENCE. LITTLE QUESTION NOW THAT DAHOMEY HAS DECIDED CAST HER LOT WITH ANGLOPHONE NEIGHBOR, AND REFUSE MEMBERSHIP IN EXCLUSIVELY FRANCOPHONE ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEN LOCALLY AS FRONT FOR PRESERVATION OF FRENCH INTERESTS AND IVOIRIAN PREEMINENCE. DAHOMEANS GAUGE CHANCES OF PROFITING FROM MORE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH NIGERIA NOW OUTWEIGH ADVANTAGES WHICH MIGHT BE GAINED FROM CEAO MEMBERSHIP AS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COTONO 00586 251444 Z

PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED. THEIR POSING AS SMALL BUT RESOLUTE NIGERIAN CHAMPION AT ABIDJAN MEETING WAS AIMED AT GAINING GOOD WILL AND SUPPORT FROM THOSE NIGERIANS, LED BY GENERAL GOWON, WHO WISH THEIR COUNTRY TO PLAY ROLE BEFITTING HER SIZE AND IMPORTANCE IN AFRICA.

2. ASSUME EMBASSY LAGOS WILL REPORT ON DETAILS OF LAGOS VISIT. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS AS WE MEET WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES HERE.

ANDERSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973COTONO00586  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** COTONOU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730453/aaaaiydc.tel  
**Line Count:** 73  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980203  
**Subject:** DAHOMEAN CHIEF OF STATE VISITS NIGERIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, DM, NI, CEAO  
**To:** ABIDJAN  
AF  
BAMAKO  
LAGOS  
LOME  
NIAMEY  
OUAGADOUGOU

PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005